

[English]

Noise Pollution

3706. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the cities and towns where the noise pollution is increasing;

(b) if so, the details and the extent of noise pollution there;

(c) whether any formal study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to curb the noise pollution in these cities and towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. (SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) An increasing trend of noise has been noticed in the major metropolitan cities of India. Central Pollution Control Board had conducted noise pollution surveys in eighteen major cities of the country, namely, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Calcutta, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mangalore, Mumbai, Vadodara and Visakhapatnam. Studies have indicated that the noise levels were generally found within the limits in industrial areas but often exceeded the prescribed standards in certain areas in commercial, residential and silence zones. The rising trend of noise in these cities is mainly due to increase in human activities and vehicular traffic.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following :

- Noise pollution has been included in the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended in 1987. Ambient standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipments at the manufacturing stage.
- The Central Pollution Control Board has evolved codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles. These

include public address system, aircraft operations, railway operations, construction activities and bursting of crackers. State Governments have been asked to implement these codes of practice under the relevant local laws.

- Environmental awareness campaigns on the effects of noise pollution have been launched through governmental and non-governmental organisations.

[Translation]

Drought Affected Areas of Maharashtra

3707. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the drought affected places in Maharashtra due to non-occurrence of rains;

(b) the average rainfall recorded in these areas and the quantum of rainfall recorded there this year;

(c) the extent of damage caused to crops as a result of low rainfall; and

(d) the amount allocated for such drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, 1906 villages in six districts are affected by drought conditions in varying degrees due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 1996. The details of the districts and the affected villages are given below:—

Sl.No.	District	No. of affected villages
1.	Raigarh	2
2.	Dhule	89
3.	Ahmednagar	150
4.	Bhandara	1097
5.	Chandrapur	355
6.	Gadchiroli	213
Total		1906

(b) The India Meteorological Department has reported the following data about the normal and actual rainfall in the affected districts:—

Sl.No.	District	Normal rainfall (in mm)	Actual rainfall (in mm)
1.	Raigarh	3293.1	2590.4
2.	Dhule	666.9	646.6
3.	Ahmednagar	438.1	529.7
4.	Bhandara	1280.4	790.4
5.	Chandrapur	1179.5	767.2
6.	Gadchiroli	1345.3	989.9

(c) The inadequate rainfall has resulted in crop losses of over 50% in 1906 villages.

(d) Government of Maharashtra have allocated Rs. 30.00 crores for emergency water supply and Rs. 65.00 lakh for fodder supply in the areas affected by drought.

[English]

Indisciplined Driving by Drivers of Blue Lines

3708. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports appearing in "The Pioneer" dated December 7, 8 and 9, 1996 regarding the indisciplined driving of private buses with the alleged connivance of Delhi Police;

(b) if so, whether connivance of Delhi Police has come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to enforce traffic discipline amongst the blue line drivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) The Government have seen the news reports which appeared in "The Pioneer" in its issues dated December 7 and 8, 1996.

(b) and (c) There have been instances where individual Traffic Police personnel were found involved in the malpractices. As the result of a major anti-corruption drive carried out by the Delhi Police amongst its own men, 161 Traffic Policemen face departmental inquiries while 202 other officials stand transferred to non-sensitive units.

(d) As a result of the concerted action taken by the Delhi Police to enforce traffic discipline amongst red/blue

line buses during 1996, 6053 buses were impounded, 2804 drivers were arrested and 343 permits were suspended. The number of cases challened for traffic violations was 1,37,404. These efforts had a major impact on the number of accidents caused by the red/blue line buses. The accident rate registered a 38.88% decline in 1996 when compared with 1995.

Reimbursement of Full Freight Charges

3709. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FCI is required to declare designated/base depots for the delivery of foodgrains to the State agency under PDS and Reimbursement of Full Freight Charges claims are to be settled based on the declaration of such designated/base depots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the FCI has not yet declared designated/base depots for the State of Gujarat on account of which the claims of the Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation since 1986-87 have not been settled by FCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India has to supply foodgrains to the State Governments from designated depots. In case FCI is unable to supply foodgrains from designated depots, the State Government is entitled to claim reimbursement of Rail Freight and Forwarding charges (RFFC) if the distance involved is more than 14 kms.

(c) to (e) The Food Corporation of India has given the list of declared designated depots to the Government of Gujarat in Feb., 1996. Since 90% claims of Gujarat State Civil Supplies Corporation did not fulfill the conditions of reimbursement of RFFC, these were rejected by the Food Corporation of India. The GSCSC has been requested to submit RFFC claims in respect of stocks lifted from depots other than designated depots.

Losses Incurred by Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited

3710. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether certain units of Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited have been continuously incurring losses